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MAR 27 2003 Docket No.: Y0647.0141/P141
TC 2800 MAIL ROOM (PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Toshiyuki Nomura

Application No.: 10/009,244

Group Art Unit: 2855

Filed: December 6, 2001

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

For: SPEECH SWITCHING APPARATUS

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (IDS)

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached PTO/SB/08. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

Timing of Filing of the Information Disclosure Statement:

This IDS is being filed before the First Office Action¹.

This IDS is being filed after the issuance of the First Office Action but before the issuance of a Final Office Action².

¹ The IDS should, where possible, include a certification under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e).

² The IDS *must* include *either* a certification under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e) *or* the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p).

This IDS is being filed after the issuance of a Final Office Action but before the payment of the Final Fee³.

Certifications:

If checked, the undersigned makes the following statement(s):

Statement under 37 CFR § 1.97(e):

Each item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this information disclosure statement; or

No item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the undersigned after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was known to any individual designated in § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement.

Statement Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.704(d):

Each item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application and this communication was not received by any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than thirty days prior to the filing of this information disclosure statement.

Fee Required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c)(2) or 1.97(d)(2):

If checked, the fee of \$180.00 set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) is attached.

³ The IDS *must* include *both* a certification under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e) *and* the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p).

Copies of Information:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a), the following are enclosed:

- A legible copy⁴ of each document (or relevant portion thereof) is cited in the attached PTO/SB/08.
- With respect to any information which is not in English, a concise explanation of the relevance, as it is presently understood by the individual designated in § 1.56(c) most knowledgeable about the content of the information, is attached. This concise explanation is provided by way of:
 - A translation of the relevant portions of the non-English language information⁵;
 - A statement explaining the relevant portions of the non-English language information;
 - A copy [and, where not in the English language, a translation] of at least the relevant portion(s)⁶ of the communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application in which the information was cited; or
 - This information is contained in the specification of the present application.

⁴ A legible copy of the document is not required if (1) the information was previously cited by, or submitted to, the Office and considered by the Office in a prior U.S. application to which this application claims priority, provided that the prior application is properly identified in this IDS, and (2) the IDS submitted in the earlier application complies with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a) – (c). This exception does not apply to information cited in an International Application.

⁵ 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(3)(ii) *requires* that an English language translation be provided when a translation of the document, or portion thereof, “is within the possession, custody or control of, or is readily available to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c).”

⁶ The relevant portion is that portion which indicates the degree of relevance found by the foreign patent office. This may be an explanation of which portion of the reference is particularly relevant, to which claims it applies, or merely an “X”, “Y”, or “A” indication on a search report. MPEP §609 III A(3).

Materiality:

Whether or not the information and references disclosed in this Information Disclosure Statement is "material" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56, this submission is not intended to constitute an admission that any patent, publication or other information referred to therein is "prior art" for this invention unless specifically designated as such.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.97(g), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made or that no other material information as defined in 37 CFR 1.56(a) exists.

It is submitted that the Information Disclosure Statement is in compliance with 37 CFR 1.98 and the Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the listed references.

Dated: March 24, 2003

Respectfully submitted,

By 
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PTO/SB/08A (10-01)

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U. S. Patent and Trademark Office: U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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| Substitute for form 1449A/PTO | | | | Complete if Known | |
| | | | | Application Number | 10/009,244 |
| | | | | Filing Date | December 6, 2001 |
| | | | | First Named Inventor | Toshiyuki Nomura |
| | | | | Art Unit | 2855 |
| | | | | Examiner Name | Not Yet Assigned |
| Sheet | 1 | of | 1 | Attorney Docket Number | |
| Y0647.0141/P141 | | | | | |

| U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|--|--------------------------------|--|--|
| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. ¹ | Document Number | Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear |
| | | Number-Kind Code ² (if known) | | | |
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| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|---|--------------------------------|--|--|
| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. ¹ | Foreign Patent Document | Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear |
| | | Country Code ³ -Number ⁴ -Kind Code ⁵ (if known) | | | |
| A | JP 60-6998 | | 01-14-1985 | | T ⁶ |

¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ²See attached Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the application number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

| OTHER PRIOR ART – NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS | | | | | |
|--|-----------------------|--|--|--|--|
| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. ¹ | Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published. | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | E | Japanese Office Action issued February 25, 2003 (w/ English translation of relevant portions) | | | |

| | | |
|--------------------|--|-----------------|
| Examiner Signature | | Date Considered |
|--------------------|--|-----------------|

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ²Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.